DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

Administration Report of the Excise Department for the year 1938-39.

READ—

Letter No. B3. 327—39-40, dated 12th October 1939, from the Excise Commissioner in Mysore, submitting the report on the administration of the Excise Department for the year 1938-39.

ORDER No. FL. 4037-48—EX. 41-39-3, DATED BANGALORE, THE 29TH DECEMBER 1939.

Recorded.

2. *Country Spirits.*—The Mysore Sugar Company, Ltd., continued as contractors for the manufacture and supply of spirits from the distillery at Mandya. The number of shops licensed for the retail vend of arrack was 537 (536) and the issues to them were 128,527 (136,288) gallons. The issues of rectified spirits were 6,810 (7,206) gallons. The exports of denatured spirits decreased from 234,236 gallons to 233,607 gallons. The number of shops licensed for the sale of special liquors and jaggery arrack was 27 as in the preceding year.

3. *Toddy.*—There were 1,937 (1,942) shops for the sale of date and cocoanut toddy and 371 (372) shops for the sale of bagani toddy. The number of toddy-yielding trees licensed both in and outside the State was 230,827 (230,731). The revenue realised from toddy was Rs. 31,87,978 (Rs. 32,30,993).

4. The consumption of malt liquors was 18,721 (22,228) gallons and of foreign spirits 34,375 (36,287) gallons. The revenue derived from malt liquors, both in the shape of rental and duty, was Rs. 30,591 (Rs. 19,796). The number of licenses issued for the sale of foreign liquors was Rs. 75 (83). The revenue from the sale of foreign liquors inclusive of surcharge fees amounted to Rs. 17,620 (Rs. 17,110).

5. *Intoxicating Drugs (a) Ganja (b) Opium.*—There were 261 (260) shops licensed for the sale of ganja. The consumption was 9,456 (9,533) seers.

Shops licensed for the sale of opium numbered 88 (89) and the consumption decreased from 740 seers to 670 seers.

6. *Excise Offences.*—Cases reported under the Excise and Opium laws were 4,783 (4,892), of which 682 (1,026) were grave offences. Including 403 (473) cases pending at the beginning of the year, the number for disposal was 5,186 (5,365). Of these, 354 (458) cases were placed before Magistrates and 4,535 (4,504) cases were dealt with departmentally. Fines or composition fees were levied in 4,041 (3,921) cases, the realisations amounting to Rs. 14,064 (Rs. 19,052).

7. *Finances.*—The total demand under excise revenue, inclusive of the arrears of Rs. 95,716 (Rs. 1,14,152) amounted to Rs. 55,03,253 (Rs. 55,18,715), of which a sum of Rs. 53,37,461 (Rs. 54,20,071) was collected and a sum of Rs. 40,354 (Rs. 2,928) was written off, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,25,438 (Rs. 95,716). The expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,92,940 (Rs. 3,87,152). The incidence of taxation per head of the population was Re. 0-13-4 (Re. 0-13-6). The amount refunded to privileged inamdars on account of toddy revenue was Rs. 54,825 (Rs. 43,472).

8. *Rectified Spirits and Dangerous Drugs Licenses.*—Twenty-one (16) chemists and druggists were licensed to use rectified spirits in medicinal preparations, 27 (23) licenses were issued to chemists and druggists for sale of preparations of opium and 81 (77) licenses were issued under the Dangerous Drugs Rules.

9. *Experiment in Prohibition.*—In addition to the thirteen excise shops closed in the Closepet Rural Welfare and Health Centre last year, ten more shops including the five excise shops of Channapatna Town were ordered to be closed with effect from 1st July 1939. Temperance propaganda work was also carried on in this centre and the grant-in-aid of Rs. 2,500 to the Mysore Temperance Federation was continued during this year.

10. The working of the department was on the whole satisfactory.

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